

Texas Labor Law.

The following is a synopsis of the law passed at the recent session of the Texas Legislature in reference to the contracts for labor:

1. No person is compelled to contract, yet if they do so for a period longer than one month, the contract must be in writing signed and witnessed in presence of a Justice of the Peace, County Judge, County Clerk or Notary Public.

2. If the contract is violated on the part of the laborer all wages earned to the time of abandonment are forfeited, unless such abandonment is caused on account of harsh treatment, or violation of contract by the employer.

3. One copy of the contract must be deposited with the County Clerk, and any court of competent jurisdiction may enforce the contract.

4. The County Clerks are to keep an alphabetical register of the contracts.

5. All labor contracts must be made with heads of families, shall embrace the labor of all members of the family named therein and are binding on all minors.

6. The wages due are a lien upon the crops to one-half the crop, second however to the rent items.

7. One half the wages to be paid as agreed upon, the other half may be retained by the employer until the contract is completed.

8. If employers wilfully fail they may be fined in double the amount due the laborer to be for his benefit, and any cruelty, inhumanity or negligence of duty on the part of the employer may be summarily punished by fine.

9. In case of sickness, the laborer's wages for the time lost to be deducted, and if feigned he forfeits double the wages for the time, and if he refuses to work when able for more than three days, he may be reported to a Justice of the Peace, and may be adjudged, if he refuses still to work under his contract, on any public work.

10. Must work ten hours a day in summer and nine hours in winter, unless otherwise stipulated in his contract—is charged with proper care of stock, &c., &c., which are at his control for laboring purposes—is responsible for injuries wilfully done, for disobedience of orders, &c.

11. Laborers engaged in household duties are subject to all the calls of the family where employed, at all hours, day or night, except when sick, provided no such calls shall be made after 10 o'clock at night, or on Sundays unless the exigencies of the family or household render such calls necessary or unavoidable.

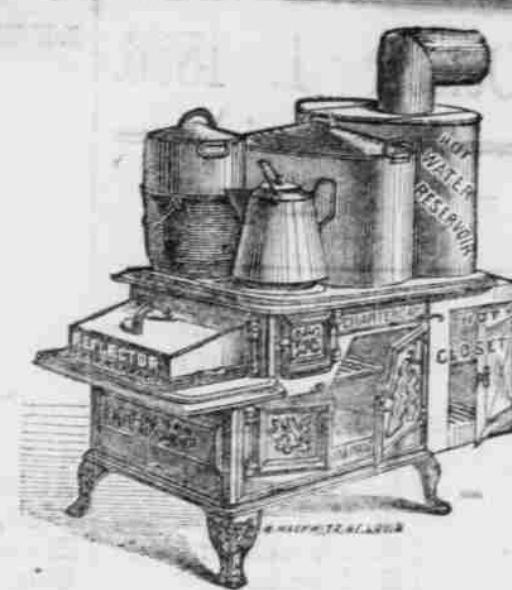
12. For habitual laziness, &c., the laborer may be discharged, subject however to an award, by two citizens, assisted by a Justice of the Peace.

13. Any contract made in a foreign country, according to the law there, may be enforced here, if properly authenticated.

14. The law to take effect from its passage.

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